

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, after the title, please insert the following:

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation of Serial No. 09/706,778 filed November 7, 2000, now abandoned, which in turn is a division of Serial No. 08/910,152 filed August 13, 1997, now U.S. 6,200,548, which is a division of Serial No. 08/288,550 filed August 10, 1994, now U.S. 5,711,933, which is a division of Serial No. 08/033,435 filed March 18, 1993, abandoned, which is a division of Serial No. 07/695,343 filed May 3, 1991, abandoned.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 7, as follows:

~~The conditions for achieving these results are met by using the method disclosed in claims 17, 18 and subsequent claims.~~ Air or gas filled microballoons of the invention useful as suspensions in a carrier liquid for oral, rectal, or urethral applications, or for injections into living organisms, are prepared by (1) emulsifying a hydrophobic organic phase into a water phase so as to obtain droplets of the hydrophobic phase as an oil-in-water emulsion in the water phase; (2) adding to the emulsion a solution of at least one polymer in a volatile solvent insoluble in the water phase, so that a layer of the polymer will form around the droplets; (3) evaporating the volatile solvent so that the polymer will deposit by interfacial precipitation around the droplets which then form beads with a core of the hydrophobic phase encapsulated by a membrane of the polymer, the beads being suspended in the water phase; then (4) subjecting the suspension to reduced pressure

under conditions such that the encapsulated hydrophobic phase is removed by evaporation. The hydrophobic phase is selected so that in step (4) it evaporates substantially simultaneously with the water phase and is replaced by air or gas, whereby dry, free flowing, readily dispersible microballoons are obtained. Alternatively, the polymer is dissolved in the hydrophobic phase, so that steps (2) and (3) can be omitted and the polymer membrane will form by interfacial precipitation during step (4).